

Kedumim squatters urged to leave

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT Jerusalem Post Reporter
KEDUMIM — The military governor of the West Bank came to this settlement late last night in a last-ditch effort to persuade residents to abandon the adjoining Arab-owned land which they had seized on Tuesday and thus avoid a confrontation with the IDF.

many of the settlers spent the evening singing in smooch which they had put up around the makeshift structures. Others bedded down for the night in sleeping bags.
The women and children had been sent to sleep in their homes within the Kedumim fences. But they were told to rush through the olive grove between Kedumim and the seized land if summoned over loudspeakers.

prayers. In a success between the first two structures, children sang and ate sweets, celebrating Shalom Gur's eighth birthday party. TV personnel stood or played backgammon after filming the small structures and the placards addressed to Begin.
"Three Days of the Ghetto are Over. We are Now in Zion," one placard said.

Ehrlich splits with jurists: 'Attorneys' contract not binding'

By DAVID RICHARDSON Jerusalem Post Reporter
Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has put himself clearly at odds with Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and with the attorney-general's staff, who last week ruled that the wage agreement the government signed with the state attorneys was binding.

During an interview on last night's "Moked" television programme, Ehrlich said that in his opinion the agreement was impossible to execute. This was a condition recognized by law and if necessary the government would have to pay compensation for breach of contract.

witnesses and large-scale theft. In one case the presiding judge cross-examined witnesses in the absence of a prosecutor. Two state attorneys appeared under back-to-work orders in the Haifa District Court.

Finance Committee passes 100% tax bracket linkage

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved by a majority vote the Treasury's request to link income tax brackets at a rate of 100 per cent to the cost-of-living index. The new brackets go into effect this month.

The linkage means the ceiling for each category will be raised by 36.5 per cent this month. Salaries increased recently to keep up with inflation had put the wage earner into a higher tax bracket, though the real value of his wages was not increasing.

The committee had postponed its decision on linkage three times before. The delay developed over a dispute between two Likud members of the committee — Yigal Cohen-Orgad and Haim Kaufman. Cohen-Orgad wanted to hold off full linkage until the ministers for the economy had guaranteed that no labour contracts would be breached until April, the start of the fiscal year.

Bullion jumps, then slumps

LONDON (AP) — Gold jumped sharply on European bullion markets yesterday but sagged later. The American dollar again came under fire on foreign exchanges following a brief two-day respite.

Leumi management, workers meet today with Histadrut

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV — The Histadrut has called a joint meeting of Bank Leumi's management and workers for this afternoon, to continue negotiations over the crisis which has closed Israel's largest banking network for a week.

5 deaths, more kidnappings reported in Lebanon feuding

BEIRUT — Scores of Lebanese mountain travellers remained in captivity yesterday and an obscure militia organization said it had "executed" a number of civilians kidnapped two days ago in later-Christians feuding.

Group said behind most disturbances in territories

Authorities ban 'secret Palestinian organization'
By IAN BLACK Jerusalem Post Reporter
The military authorities have warned a number of public figures in the administered territories that the activities of a body known as the "Preparatory Committee for the Palestinian National Front" are illegal and that anyone who participates in it is likely to face prosecution.

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Ehrlich spills beans on visit of top Chilean

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich yesterday let slip the fact that the Chilean finance minister has been visiting Israel this week. His presence had been kept under wraps by the Foreign Ministry, presumably to avoid negative publicity about Israel's relations with Chile's dictatorial regime.

Begin's reshuffle talks seen starting next week

Jerusalem Post Staff
Prime Minister Menachem Begin next week will begin consultations with his coalition partners for a redistribution of cabinet portfolios. The premier's decision to move on the reshuffle follows talks yesterday with Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich — whose post is at the centre of the cabinet reorganization controversy.

speculations. They say the premier is unlikely to determine either the scope or the nature of what they term a cabinet reorganization — rather than reshuffle — before he completes his talks with the coalition leaders.

He also told Begin he believes most members of the Liberal Central Committee are with him in rejecting any interpretations of their decision as a call for his dismissal.



Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali exchange smiles at their joint press conference yesterday in Strasbourg, France. The two had just delivered speeches to the European Parliament. (AP radiophone)

Ghali, Dayan disagree on talking with PLO

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali urged Western Europe to pressure the U.S. and Israel into talking to the Palestine Liberation Organization, but Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan warned Europe to stay out of the dispute.

aware of the fact that vicious ideologies can take over practical politics. He also attacked Europe for criticizing Israel's raids on PLO targets in Lebanon, saying that the governments of the continent "which was the scene of the Holocaust of the Jewish people in the last generation, should reflect upon their great responsibility, refrain from prejudging the issues."

'I'm not leaving Treasury'

Post Political Reporter
TEL AVIV — A confident and pugacious Simcha Ehrlich yesterday announced unequivocally that he has no intention whatever of quitting his post of finance minister in the foreseeable future. Ehrlich was answering questions put to him by a panel of interviewers on TV's "Moked" programme.

his resignation would be the loss of confidence in him by the prime minister or a vote of no-confidence by his Liberal Party.

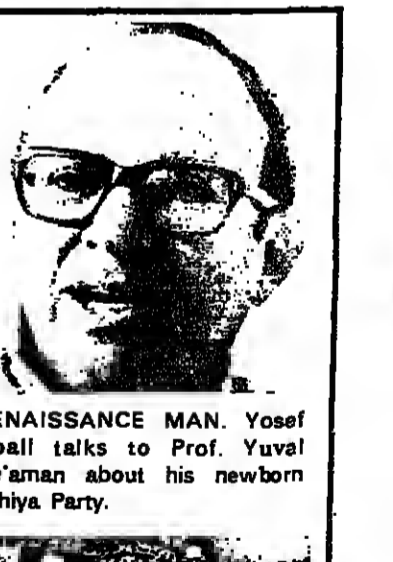
Ehrlich, Liberal Party foes set for showdown

By SARAH HONIG Post Political Reporter
TEL AVIV — "If Simcha Ehrlich refuses to see the writing on the wall, we will have no choice but to show it to him in all its stark clarity," Liberal opponents said yesterday following indications that he does not intend to vacate his office in the near future.

trul Committee resolution which advocated a cabinet reshuffle was a wide spectrum of party factions — including those headed by ministers Yitzhak Moda'i (Energy and Communications) and Gideon Patt (Industry, Trade and Tourism), the Young Guard, led by former Deputy Finance Minister Yehzekiel Flomin, and independent MKs such as Menahem Savidov, Yitzhak Berman, Moshe Meron and others.

Int'l terminal at Etzion base

By YITZHAK OKED Jerusalem Post Reporter
EILAT — A new terminal for international flights will be inaugurated at the Etzion air force base west of here on October 22. Transport Minister Haim Landau told journalists on a tour of the site yesterday that the terminal costs ILS 5.5 million, instead of an earlier estimate of ILS 5 million for a new airport — because of the utilization of existing facilities at the base.



RENAISSANCE MAN. Yosef Gonaal talks to Prof. Yuval Ne'aman about his newborn Tehiya Party.

Sadat lambasts 'Libya-Saudi axis'

CAIRO (Reuters) — President Anwar Sadat yesterday accused Saudi Arabia and Libya of forming an anti-Egyptian axis, the official Middle East News Agency reported. Sadat told a meeting of Egyptian judges that "the new Saudi-Libyan axis operates out of grudge against Egypt which has regained its position in the region and in the world."

NOT BLACK-AND-WHITE. Moshe Sharon explains why he thinks South Africa is being misjudged.

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5 MORE DAYS WIN A FREE WEEKEND FOR TWO TURN TO PAGE 8

Beduin vow to fight land law

TEL AVIV (Him). — Negev Beduin yesterday warned that violence might break out against the proposed law to expropriate their land...

'Settle Shlomi' draws 1,000

By ALAN ELSNER Jerusalem Post Reporter TEL AVIV. — The operation to attract young couples to the Western Galilee development town of Shlomi...

Frozen meat prices up soon by 20%

Jerusalem Post Reporter Imported frozen meat will soon rise in price by some 20 per cent. The price hike will be the second in six weeks...

Yadin: DM must keep all portfolios in a reshuffle

By SARAH HONIG Post Political Reporter TEL AVIV. — With a government reshuffle rumoured, Deputy Premier Yigal Yadin yesterday warned...

Wage dispute hits cooking gas supply

Jerusalem Post Reporter TEL AVIV. — Distribution of Amragsa cooking gas was stopped yesterday because of a wage dispute with the company's salaried personnel.

Maccabi to charge 10% for drugs

Jerusalem Post Reporter TEL AVIV. — Maccabi sick fund members will pay 10 per cent of the price of each drug prescribed by their physician...



A thirsty Lake Kinneret awaits the winter rains. (M. Dekel)

No pay expected for city workers Municipalities face paralysis

By ALAN ELSNER Jerusalem Post Reporter TEL AVIV. — Municipal services are likely to grind to a halt in the near future as the Union of Local Authorities emergency action committee...

Contrary to earlier reports, the Union of Local Authorities will not take part in this meeting. A source in the union said that Burg now realizes that the mayors are serious...

Tavori said that he informed his workers committee with great regret that they won't get money. The workers responded by saying that they will "not work a single day without being paid."

Prisoners' kin protest conditions

Jerusalem Post Reporter Relatives of Arab security detainees from the administered territories demonstrated outside the East Jerusalem office of the Red Cross yesterday in protest about prison conditions.

New effort to avert teachers' sanctions

By ALAN ELSNER Jerusalem Post Reporter TEL AVIV. — An attempt will be made tomorrow morning to prevent disruptions of school lessons next week when the commissioner of work relations in the Labour Ministry...

Family battle over state's witness in robbery trial

TEL AVIV (Him). — Relatives of a state witness in the Bank Leumi armed robbery trial yesterday engaged in fist-fights and a shouting match in the fourth-floor corridor of the District Court here.

Two W. Bank mayors to trial for scuffle

By IAN BLACK Jerusalem Post Reporter Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf and El-Bira Mayor Ibrahim Tawil are to stand trial next Tuesday on charges of scuffling with policemen in the corridor of the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem last November.

told him that the Palestine Liberation Organization is our only legitimate representative. Go and talk politics with Yasser Arafat," he said.

8 held in terror investigation

Jerusalem Post Reporter Security forces have detained at least eight people from the village of Isawiya, east of Jerusalem, in a two-day operation in the village.

A similar search was conducted in the village of Siwan inside the municipal perimeter of Jerusalem. This area was not sealed off.

Yadin: DM must keep all portfolios in a reshuffle

Those close to Ehrlich say he will only stay in the DM cabinet if his strength is cut. Some speculate that Ehrlich is after Yadin's deputy premiership.

Prisoners' kin protest conditions

prisoners in Be'erSheva and Ashkelon jails were currently conducting a hunger strike against inadequate food and medical service.

Family battle over state's witness in robbery trial

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Advertisement for apples with the headline 'APPLES FOR EVERYBODY'. It features an image of an apple and describes various ways to enjoy them, such as in puddings, stewed, or to decorate a table.

TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN:

We, the undersigned, Israeli and American Jews committed to the security of the State of Israel and concerned with the well-being of its citizens, are deeply distressed by the recent imposition of your Cabinet to allow prosecutors in military and civilian courts to demand the death penalty for acts of terrorism.

- List of Petition Signatories: California: Stephanie Seaks, Zep Toub...

Advertisement for 'NEW NEWS FROM THE MACCABI SICK FUND embracing ASSAF SICK FUND'. It includes details about medication levies and the fund's mission to reduce the cost of drugs for patients.

Advertisement for the State of Israel Ministry of Construction and Housing Contractors' Registrar. It features the headline 'Change of Address' and provides information about contractor licenses and the registrar's office.

הכרזת העצמאות

AFTER TWO DECADES of retreat from parliamentary democracy, Africa is experiencing a new surge of political freedom.

The return of Nigeria's soldiers to their barracks on October 1, after 13 years of military rule, fulfilled their promise to restore a full-fledged multi-party system to the continent's most populous country and one of its richest.

Just one week earlier, the army in neighbouring Ghana similarly surrendered power to an elected parliament.

The return of parliamentary democracy to these two important West African republics means that a dozen of the continent's 50 independent states are now governed by elected parliaments.

Apart from Nigeria and Ghana, the other states are Morocco, Senegal, Egypt, the Gambia, Upper Volta, Botswana, Djibouti, Mauritania, Liberia and Tunisia.

Although opposition parties enjoy the legal right of existence in all these countries, their freedom is perhaps less certain in Tunisia and Morocco than in the others.

South Africa does not qualify as a parliamentary democracy because, although it is an elected parliament, it denies votes to blacks. In addition to the 12 parliamentary democracies in Africa, a further nine countries elect their parliaments but restrict candidates to members of the ruling party.

Nevertheless, the value of elections in single-party states like Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, the Ivory Coast, and Algeria is that they do permit the democratic selection of candidates from among party members, and offer a choice of candidates to the electorate.

The element of genuine democracy in some of these single-party states is shown by the

wholesale defeat of office-holders, often ministers.

NO LESS important than the establishment of democratic parliaments in countries previously under military rule has been the overthrow, in quick succession, of the three nastiest dictators in Africa — Idi Amin in Uganda, Macias Nguema in Equatorial Guinea, and Emperor Bokassa I of the short-lived Central African Empire.

There are now only five military regimes left in Africa. Twenty-two countries are ruled by single parties, and nine are self-professing Marxist states.

What seems evident is that the pendulum has begun to swing away from the tendency towards military regimes and tightly organized single-party states which typified the continent in the first 20 years of post-colonial independence.

The frustration of democratic practices was perhaps inevitable as the new nations struggled to overcome the economic, tribal and regional conflicts which are the common experience of African freedom.

Military rule has proved, without exception, to be a failure. Even in those countries where the soldiers have not formally withdrawn to their barracks — as in Algeria, Rwanda, Burundi and Zaïre — the military element has been very largely diluted by the introduction of civil servants and technocrats into government.

The question is how far the pendulum will continue to swing towards genuine forms of parliamentary democracy. A great deal will depend upon the success or failure of the new civilian governments in Nigeria and Ghana.

GHANA is now embarking on its third attempt at parliamentary

DEMOCRACY MAKES A COMEBACK

By COLIN LEGUM / London



Three toppled tyrants, from left: Idi Amin, Macias Nguema, Jean Bedel Bokassa.

democracy since the dynamic country achieved its dramatic independence under Dr. Kwame Nkrumah in 1946.

The new president of Ghana, Dr. Hilla Limann, is an admirer of the late Nkrumah. A number of Nkrumah's former associates (including his son, Dr. Francis Nkrumah) are ministers in the new government.

Although Ghana's new ruling party professes itself to be Nkrumahist in outlook, there are signs that Limann's government has profited from Nkrumah's mistakes.

Not only does Limann face strong opposition in his new parliament, but he is not altogether free from possible pressures from the army.

Its revolutionary committee, under Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, has promised to keep a careful eye on the new regime to ensure that it does not relapse into the corruption and nepotism that have blighted Ghana's political life throughout all its successive regimes in the past 20 years.

The execution of eight senior military officers for corruption by Rawlings's revolutionary committee

will undoubtedly prove to be salutary — at least for a time — to the new rulers.

IN NIGERIA, though, the new government of President Shehu Shagari has nothing to fear from its army, which shows every sign of disengaging itself from politics and concentrating on slimming itself down from 300,000 men to 200,000.

The wounds inflicted on Nigeria by the bitter civil war of the mid-1960s, caused by the Ibo's ill-fated attempt to establish their breakaway Biafra Republic, seems to have been cured.

Shagari, a northerner, has as his vice-president a distinguished Ibo. But what remains to be tested is whether Nigerians have really overcome the divisive regional loyalties which marred the life of the first post-civilian government.

While, of course, the new ruling party won a majority of votes, the two main opposition parties are still strongly identified with regional interests.

The stronger of the opposition parties is led by Chief Oshafemi Awolowo, a moderate socialist, whose political fortunes have been closely tied in the past to a section of the Yorubas.

The other major opposition leader is the veteran nationalist, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. Although "Zik" is an Ibo, he was a prominent opponent of the attempt to set up the secessionist Biafra Republic.

Shagari's government seems likely to follow in the tradition of the first post-independence government led by the late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa — except that it is likely to be less strongly oriented towards the West and appears much more radical in its commitment of the liberation movements in Southern Africa.

The new government has the great advantage of taking office at a time when the economy is at a new peak because of the country's oil wealth.

IF DEMOCRACY can now succeed in Nigeria and Ghana it could be invigorated by demonstrating that — contrary to earlier ideas — parliamentary democracy can be made to work in Africa.

Botswana, one of the model democratic countries in the continent, is about to hold its third general election since independence. President Sir Seretse Khama is engaged in a tough campaign

against two opposition parties, but there seems little doubt that this committed democrat will again emerge as the victor from the polls on October 18.

Another notable African democrat, the near-octogenarian Sir Seevooosagur Ramgoolam, prime minister of Mauritius, appears to be weathering the worst crisis since his independence in 1968 of his small sugar island in the Indian Ocean.

Maintaining democracy in a country like Mauritius is one of the most difficult tasks of statesmanship anywhere in the world. Its politics are complicated by divisions within its racial communities — Hindu and Moslem, Indians, Creoles, French and Chinese. To complicate affairs even further, the island has a strong left-wing force, the Mauritius Militant Movement, which emerged as the largest single party in the elections three years ago.

For almost three years, Ramgoolam has succeeded in maintaining the fragile unity of his coalition government, which had a minority of only one over the MMM. Recently, though, Ramgoolam's Labour Party split, making it even harder to stave off the challenge of the MMM. Now, the MMM has resorted to damaging industrial action, some of it politically motivated.

These strikes have dealt crippling blows to the economy, which is wholly dependent on sugar exports.

Despite these setbacks, the remarkable Ramgoolam has survived under conditions which have tested the capacity of democratic government to its limit. At a time when democracy enjoys such a bad press in the West — let alone in the Communist bloc — it is refreshing to be able to report that in one part of the world it is showing welcome signs of new vigour. (Observer Foreign News Service)

THERE WERE once six brothers in the Santucho family of Argentina. Today, only two are left alive.

Mario Santucho, a revolutionary, died in a bloody shoot-out with the Argentinian security forces on July 18, 1976 and became a folk hero — "the Che Guevara of Argentina."

Oscar Santucho was killed in a similar armed clash with authority the previous year.

Francisco Santucho, a writer, disappeared in 1976 and is reported to have died under torture in an Argentinian prison.

Julio Santucho, a teacher, now lives in exile in Italy with his two children after his wife disappeared in 1976.

Amilcar Santucho, aged 58, a lawyer, was freed just over a week ago after four years' imprisonment without trial in Paraguay, during which he was beaten up, tortured and force-fed with drugs to lessen his

resistance. He is now in exile in Sweden.

Amilcar Santucho's wife Mabel, 49, is exiled in Cuba with their son Jorge. His daughter Mercedes, 24, if she is still alive, disappeared two years ago. Another daughter, Gertrud, 22, is still held by the authorities in Argentina.

AMILCAR SANTUCHO is a grey-faced man who answers questions in a monotone and hides behind huge dark glasses.

When he was presented to the international press in the downy second-floor headquarters of Amnesty International in Stockholm, the French journalist sitting next to me complained that he couldn't see much of a story in it.

Santucho had been produced by Amnesty to underline its testimony to the Supreme Court in Paraguay that three members of the Central

The Santucho saga

By CHRIS MORGENSSON / Stockholm

Committee of the Paraguayan Communist Party died under torture in police custody after their arrest in November 1975.

HE JUST sat there, looking tired and defeated and described how men were dragged past his cell in the Departamento de Investigaciones in the Paraguayan capital, Asuncion, and how he heard them being tortured and how they later died.

Angel Soler, secretary-general of the Paraguayan Communist Party, was beaten for several hours with whips and iron bars. Then his hands

and arms were chopped off hit by hit until he died from loss of blood.

Derix Villagra, 30, a member of the central committee, was gagged and bound, and clubbed to death with rubber truncheons and iron bars.

Ruben Acosta, also a member of the central committee, was beaten with rubber truncheons until his entire body was covered with bruises. Then, immersed in a tub filled with filthy water and excrement, he was suspended by his feet from the ceiling and beaten until he died.

Amnesty's testimony names several police agents, including the director of investigations, Pastor Coronel, as allegedly responsible for the deaths.

The bodies of the three men are believed to be buried in the basement of Asuncion's security police headquarters. Amnesty's testimony has been sent to the Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of American States and to the United Nations.

SANTUCHO said he knew of hundreds of other cases of people being

imprisoned without trial and tortured in South America. (There was nothing new in that, said the French journalist in a whispered aside.)

Santucho described quietly how he had been tortured for 15 days and then force-fed with drugs so that he fell asleep. His interrogators would then wake him, all the time asking questions about the ERP.

The revolutionary party of which his brother Mario was a leading member.

During his four years of imprisonment, he was questioned by the Paraguayan police, the Argentinian police, the Argentinian army and the Chilean security forces. He cited names of prisoners and people who had disappeared in South America — Benjamin and Adolfo Ramirez, Amicor Oviedo, Carlos Manquello, Mario Schere, Severo Acosta and Virgilio Bareiro. And a Senor Arsamendia, aged 65,

distributor of a religious newspaper: "One night in Asuncion he was badly beaten, taken back to his cell, then dragged back for further interrogation, crying and screaming. Afterwards he was left outside in the back yard in the rain and cold. The next morning he was dead."

No, he did not know Senor Arsamendia's first name. The French journalist shrugged despairingly and crossed out his note.

The list continued: Domingo Laino, ex-member of parliament in Paraguay, Alfonso Silva and his wife, imprisoned for 10 years... Captain Ortigoza. No, he didn't know his first name either.

Why were Paraguayan methods of torture so primitive? someone asked. "It is a dictatorship from the last century," said Santucho wearily. The French journalist wrote down the quote and got up to leave. (Observer Foreign News Service)

AFTER BREAKING a heroin ring supplying American soldiers at a high-security missile base in West Germany, the U.S. Army is likely to investigate the combat-readiness of its troops around the world.

The Pentagon would like other NATO countries to do likewise. NATO faces numerically superior Warsaw Pact armies behind the Iron Curtain, and its defence plans are based on the assumption of higher morale, combat-readiness and technological potency among Western troops.

That theory has come under scrutiny in recent years, especially in view of the evidence of a high level of drug abuse among North American troops and the growth of drug addiction in the West generally.

The latest survey, by a joint German-American drug squad in the region of the Daxheim Barracks, was part of an intensifying anti-narcotics campaign involving the arrest of more than 200 U.S. soldiers in Germany alone. It followed discreet diplomatic signals to the White House from the countries where American troops are based.

In the view of Representative Lester Wolff, chairman of the House

Drug chink in armour

By THOMAS LAND / London

Select Committee on Narcotics, the size of the problem in Western Europe is comparable to that involving American troops in Vietnam.

Initial inquiries suggest that 5 per cent of American troops in Europe are involved in multiple drug abuse, 9 per cent are hard drug addicts and 40 per cent take marijuana regularly.

A survey of U.S. forces in America found that "drug abuse remains a serious personnel problem, particularly among 18 to 25-year-olds, and it merits continued emphasis." It found that 31 per cent of enlisted men and women use marijuana and 7 per cent heroin.

A SPOKESMAN confirmed that "the army views its drug abuse problem as serious but not of epidemic proportions. The abuse does have some degree of adverse impact on combat-readiness but it is difficult, if not impossible, to establish a definite causal relationship that can be quantified."

The survey has been dismissed in Congress as a public relations exercise intended to underplay the size of the problem. Glenn English, a member of Wolff's committee, questioned whether voluntary information by soldiers, jeopardizing their own careers by admitting to an 'unlawful act, can be accepted as reliable. He also criticized the survey for allowing addicts to determine for statistical purposes, whether their own use of drugs could be considered as frequent or as occasional.

Wolff and English believe that the equivalent of perhaps two divisions of American troops in Europe alone are permanently incapacitated by hard drug addiction. They recently consulted President Carter and said afterwards that the White House was about to take action. (Observer Foreign News Service)

SHOWDOWN IN LIBERAL PARTY

(Continued from page 1)

arena. His press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport was received with stunned disbelief by party colleagues. One MK told *The Jerusalem Post* that he nearly crashed his car when he heard Ehrlich's humorous quips over his car radio.

The MK said: "The man is deliberately avoiding reality. We attempted to spare him at the last party Central Committee meeting by drafting a resolution that did not mention him by name and did not demand his outright ouster. We strove to make it possible for him to back out gracefully and save face. Ehrlich is now forcing us to call a spade a spade, although we would have liked to spare him personally."

The same sentiment was related by others of Ehrlich's Liberal opponents. They said that the finance minister's attempts to distinguish between the Central Committee decision and interpretations of it "constitute intellectual acrobatics."

They said that Prime Minister Menahem Begin is indeed loath to tamper with the delicate balance of his cabinet for fear that it will bring "the whole house of cards toppling down." But they attributed the very analogy between the government and a house of cards to Ehrlich, who for months now, they say, has been attempting to persuade the prime minister that the government will collapse without him.

Ehrlich himself is scheduled to meet some of his party opponents and possible supporters today, among them his former deputy Flomin. He also will meet Tel Aviv Deputy Mayor David Shifman, a close ally of Moda'i, who has been a constant thorn in his side.

Ehrlich also will meet with Zvi Renner of the Liberal Workers Organization, which has been a traditional source of support. But at the last Central Committee session, this group too joined the ad hoc anti-Ehrlich coalition, casting its votes for the reshuffle resolution. Ehrlich will probably attempt to gauge the group's mood and try to bring it back in line.

There are rumours within the Liberal Party of a repentant prodemocrat who has betrayed him by voting for the reshuffle. Fundis say this could refer to sections of the workers organization. But Ehrlich's opponents say that there have been no significant defections from the anti-Ehrlich front. They expressed confidence yesterday in their ability to proceed with moves to replace the finance minister.

The next round will be a meeting of the Liberal Executive, which will have to draft a proposal based on the Central Committee resolution. It will then be presented to the next Central Committee session, supposed to take place prior to the reconvening of the Knesset.

Ehrlich's opponents will now try to

make their moves against him more explicit. They will also try to make it clear to Begin that the government's stability need not be endangered if Ehrlich goes. Their message will be that the Liberals will not mount the barricades if the prime minister makes it possible for Ehrlich to resign.

The finance minister says that the only way he can be unseated at this point is through a no-confidence vote in the Liberal Central Committee, and expresses optimism about his chances to come out on top in such an eventuality. He is sure many will not dare express lack of confidence in him to his face, and will also argue that he is being turned into a scapegoat for the other ministers.

All of Ehrlich's opponents outside the Moda'i camp agree that Moda'i's open bid for the job harmed their anti-Ehrlich campaign. They explain that with the impression created of a battle between two would-be successors — Moda'i and Yigal Hurvitz of Rafi — Ehrlich almost naturally emerged as the prime minister's compromise choice.

The feeling in the party is that Ehrlich might still be willing to back out, but only on condition that he will not be the only one to go. He might try to take at least all the other Liberal ministers along, but the problem is that his three cabinet colleagues have no intention of vacating their posts.



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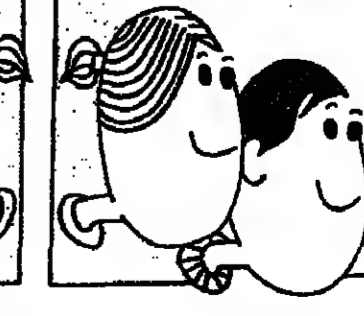
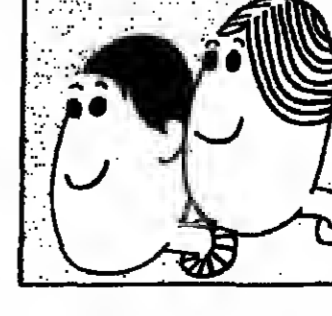
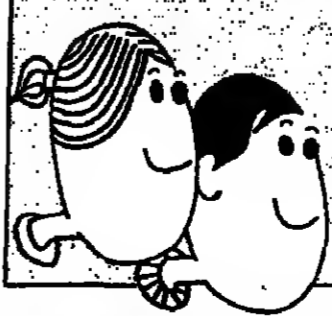
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Eilat port pulling out of slump caused by Canal trade

By YITZHAK OKED Jerusalem Post Reporter
EILAT. — The port of Eilat has been enjoying a boom during the last few months. Between April and August the cargo flow increased by 12 per cent, Yitzhak Rahav, the managing director of the Ports Authority, told a press tour here yesterday.

management hopes to whittle down the present work force of 440 to 400 by next April.
Segal added that if the port continues operating at the present level, plus handling cargoes for the new IDF lines in the Negev, it had a good chance of ending this year in the black. It has been in the red for several years.

Labour trouble at Ashdod may put strain on Haifa port

By YA'ACOV FRIDLER Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. — The Chamber of Shipping and the Shippers Council yesterday sounded the alarm over recurring labour trouble at Ashdod port. The two bodies, representing the ship owners and the users, warned that new troubles at the port augured ill for the winter, when the ports will have to handle thousands of tons of extra cargo for military construction in the Negev.

the morning, causing further work delays.
If freighters are diverted to Haifa, great pressure will be put on that port, which is already working at capacity to cope with the start of the coffee season.

Ominous harbinger of further rate boosts U.S. interest rates reach 14.5%

WASHINGTON. — Two major New York banks raised their prime interest rates by a full point to a record-breaking 14.5 per cent Tuesday, as President Carter pledged to do "whatever it takes" to control inflation.
The sharp increase in the prime rate — the interest charged to the bank's most credit-worthy customers and a harbinger of other interest rate boosts — was first announced by Chase Manhattan Bank and was followed by Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. Other banks were expected to follow suit.

one of the worst Wall Street declines in recent years.
Economists fear that the record-high price of money and the tighter credit decreed by the Federal Reserve will curtail borrowing and investment, cut back home building and persuade consumers, too, to reduce their spending.

the rapidly increasing price of gold, except for those who have sold early or bought late," Carter said. "As far as the average citizen is concerned, the price of gold has no impact..."
In the aftermath of the Federal Reserve actions to clamp down on credit, Comptroller of the Currency John G. Heimann said it increased the risk that many banks might have made more loans than they should have.

Tempting tennis tour to Israel

By BARUCH SAVILLE Jerusalem Post Travel Reporter
TEL AVIV. — A new type of tour package to Israel, centred around tennis, has been launched jointly by the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, Hertz Rent-a-Car and the Israel Tennis Centre in Ramat Hasharon.

pool.
The new tour package was given a hearty start at the Hilton when many of the 50 international contestants of the \$50,000 tennis "clinic" appeared at the welcome reception. For the occasion the ballroom was equipped with a full-size tennis net and a huge "tennis ball" which, when opened up, revealed a 10 kg cake.

Egyptians have to pay their customs in dollars from now on

CAIRO (UPI). — A government decision to levy custom duties on imports in U.S. dollars has caused confusion in the Egyptian domestic market and aroused fears of an inevitable rise of commodity prices.
The government enforced the decision as of September 1, with the aim of curbing the inflow of what it calls "luxury goods," including automobiles, refrigerators and television sets.

they have to buy dollars at inflated black market prices in order to pay customs.
The government concedes this may be true as far as "luxuries" are concerned. But officials point out that the decision is needed to solve Egypt's acute housing crisis — are exempt from customs.

Fischer Pharmaceuticals declares war on head lice

By MACABEE DEAN Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — It takes only 12 hours to rid a child of a head full of lice and nits (lice eggs), according to Dr. Eli Fischer, director-general of Fischer Pharmaceuticals. The company's Enei Brak plant makes two preparations widely used here. They are called Biclide and Monoclide and can be purchased without a doctor's prescription.

head should be thoroughly shampooed in the evening with Biclide, leaving the foam on the head for five minutes. Then the hair should be thoroughly rinsed and dried. Biclide kills the adult lice.
Then the Monoclide should be applied and left overnight. It kills the nits.

Electric car research pays off

PASADENA (AP). — A sleek, gray car built around 15 batteries and a microcomputer was presented Tuesday as proof that electric cars can meet consumer demand for stylish, efficient and economic transportation.
The experimental car, designed and built with \$7m. in U.S. government funds, "demonstrates that a well-engineered electric car can meet the majority of our driving needs and virtually all the needs of a second car — and do so economically," said Conrad Weinein of Globe-Union Inc.

Canon Individual Exhibit Invitation. KARAT LTD. is honoured to invite you to an individual exhibit of copiers on ordinary and micro-computer paper manufactured by Canon. We will be pleased to see you at the exhibit to be held at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, 99 Rehov Hayarkon, on Mon., Tues., Oct. 15, 16 at 10.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m. and 4.00-8.00 p.m.

Revlon bonus coupon campaign

TEL AVIV. — Revlon together with the Hamaashir Lartzachan chain of stores have started a month-long sales campaign, offering customers "bonuses for their money."
A person buying a Revlon product worth IL250 will receive a IL50 coupon which he can apply to the purchase of another Revlon article. With a IL500 purchase a IL125 coupon is given and IL1,000 carries a IL300 coupon. The coupons are good till the end of the year.

No need to import hothouses

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Solel Boneh has lodged a strong protest with the Jewish Agency upon learning that it is planning to import hothouses from the U.S.
Zvi Barzilai, of Solel Boneh, recently wrote to Avshalom Levinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, pointing out that Israel is one of the world's leaders in building hothouses, and that Solel Boneh itself has built some 600 dunnams of

hothouses in the Yamit and Rafiah area. He pointed out that Solel Boneh acquired its know-how from a firm in Holland, and that today Solel Boneh was building these hothouses at a cost of 30 per cent less than those imported from Holland.
Barzilai also expressed his amazement that the Jewish Agency was importing goods while depriving local firms, which had gained considerable expertise in this field, from obtaining the orders.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Table with columns for FLIGHTS, DEPARTURES, and ARRIVALS. Lists flight numbers, destinations, and times for various airlines.

TWO-IN-ONE CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for EASY PUZZLE and CRYPTIC PUZZLE. Includes solutions for today's puzzle tomorrow.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at IL55 per line including VAT; insertion every day costs IL20 including VAT per month. Copy accepted at offices of The Jerusalem Post and all recognized advertising agents.
Jerusalem MUSEUMS. Exhibitions: Yehoshua Etkes. Use of fabric to make flexible sculptural constructions. Jose Guadalupe Posada (1852-1918). Exhibition of prints by a Mexican artist. Cloth Pictures by Tamar Eylon. Valerio Adamo. Paintings. Coins of the Procurators of Judaea. Turner and the Bible. Colour at the Youth Wing. Nash Old Masters Gallery — Special Display. Art in Palestine in the 19th Century. Neolithic Figurines from Shefa Hagolan. Beststock Exhibit of the month: Head of a Youth. Fragment of a Greek marble funerary stele, 4th century B.C.E. Gift of an American Friend of the Museum to A.H.M. Sano of an Isis, enclosing the mummy of the sacred bird. Egypt, 8th century, B.C.E., wood and bronze. Rockefeller Museum: exhibit of the month: Sculptured basalt stands from Chertob sites on the Golan Heights, 4th mill. B.C.E. (from Sept. 19). Rare bronze vessels from a Persian period tomb, beg. 4th century B.C.E. Special exhibition: Islamic Arts. Visiting Hours: Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Upper entrance hall).

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES. Jerusalem: Central Bus Station, 234 Yafa, 232190; Tutunjan, Christian Qur., 233401. Tel Aviv: Netaish Israel, 11 Netzah Israel, 226465. Bat Yam: Ramot Yesef, Commercial Centre, 20 Mifsa Sinai, 267791. Ramat Gan: Talpitz, 30 Abbe Hillel, 723594. Netanya: Karniel, Commercial Centre, Kiryat Nordan, 21774. Hadera: Yafa, 62 Weisman, 22122. Haifa: Massada, 30 Massada, 653806. Be'erSheva: Assulin, Merkez Gilad Bedeha, Hananelim, 76777.
FIRST AID. Magen David Adom first aid centres are open from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Emergency home calls by doctors at fixed rates. Sick Fund members should enquire about rebates.
DUTY HOSPITALS. Jerusalem: Hadassah (pediatrics, ophthalmology), Shikun Holim (Internal, E.N.T.), Shikun Zedek (obstetrics, surgery, orthopedics), Kiryat Yehonatan (Internal, surgery), Kiryat Yehonatan (Internal, surgery), Kiryat Yehonatan (Internal, surgery), Kiryat Yehonatan (Internal, surgery).

SUNSET-SUNRISE

Sunset 17:15; Sunrise tomorrow 05:41.
POLICE. Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 92444. Kiryat Shmona 40664.

Share index shows small gain as bonds higher

TEL AVIV — While the equities market was still under a cloud of gloom yesterday, the general share index managed to come through with a gain of 0.19 per cent.

Stocks & bonds—the market report

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN Post Finance Reporter

strikebond Bank Leumi securities. Large daily offers for sale of Leumi securities are being absorbed without any change in price.

Among other commercial bank shares there was the usual spate of gainers. IDB was the star of the group with a three-point rise.

tunate and continued to lose ground. Carmel (B) was "sellers only" and was set back by five per cent.

Insurance issues, on balance, managed to show a small rise. Sahar (R) gained five points while the options rose by seven, to an even 60.

Land development and real estate shares were lower. ILDC (B) lost seven points, to 168 and Yisrova was "sellers only."

Investment company issues showed a small gain. Ampa recovered a fraction of its recent losses as it gained 14 points, to 344.

Closing prices on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

Table with columns: October 10, Closing price, Volume, Change. Lists various stocks like D.B. pref., D.B. "A", D.B. opt. 1, etc.

Table with columns: Closing price, Volume, Change. Lists various stocks like Housing Mtg. opt. 1, Housing Mtg. opt. 2, etc.

Table with columns: Closing price, Volume, Change. Lists various stocks like Prop. & Bldg. opt. "A", Prop. & Bldg. opt. "B", etc.

Table with columns: Closing price, Volume, Change. Lists various stocks like Nechushlan b, Elite, Elite opt. 3, etc.

Representative New York Stock Exchange bond prices

Table with columns: Bond name, Price, Change. Lists various bonds like 5 1/2% Defense loan, 7 1/2% (Ayn) Meh, etc.

Photo Brenner advertisement: THE FESTIVALS ARE NEARING... BUY A FLASH GUN TODAY!

"Rama Gidron" Hotel advertisement: Room and bath, homely atmosphere, bed and breakfast.

CLASSIFIEDS advertisement: DEADLINES Jerusalem: Weekdays: 10 a.m. of day prior to publication.

BANK AMPAL advertisement: For the Development of Industry in Israel showed a 40 per cent gain.

Bank of Israel advertisement: representative foreign exchange rates—October 10

Drop continues at N.Y. exchange advertisement: NEW YORK (Reuters). — Share prices tumbled in hectic trading.

Meet SABRAMAN and URI FINK advertisement: every day at the Jerusalem Fair (Biyevei Ha'oma)

"Rama Gidron" Hotel advertisement: Room and bath, homely atmosphere, bed and breakfast.

CLASSIFIEDS advertisement: DEADLINES Jerusalem: Weekdays: 10 a.m. of day prior to publication.

BANK AMPAL advertisement: For the Development of Industry in Israel showed a 40 per cent gain.

FUND RATES advertisement: DATE: October 10, 1979. UNIT PRICE REDEMPTION PRICE

AHIM ARI RESTAURANT advertisement: The only Georgian restaurant in Tel Aviv

DWELLINGS advertisement: ENNEI BRAK, 2 1/2 furnished + phone, etc.

VEHICLES advertisement: FOR SALE, passport to passport, Renault 12

INSURANCE advertisement: BEFORE RENEWING household, automobile insurance, please contact Tel. 03-717811

SINAI TOURS advertisement: 5 Day Camping Tour to Sinai Last chances for Santa Catarina

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Survival test for new immigrants

As the Absorption Ministry fights for its life in the face of possible dissolution, new immigrants must fight to retain their sanity in dealing with the ministry's officials, writes ALAN ELSNER.

MOST NEW immigrants' introduction to Israeli bureaucracy comes with their first visit to the Absorption Ministry. And for most, the encounter is a traumatic experience. With time, of course, one learns to cope with the petty officialdom and red tape which is designed, it seems, not so much to help immigrants in the absorption process but to drive them back to their countries of origin. One even begins to joke about it.

But last week, visiting the ministry for the first time in several months and seeing the same depressing scenes of absorption being thwarted by small-minded, uncooperative and inefficient officials, it struck me that by making a joke of the situation, we are doing a disservice to those unfortunate who will have to follow in our footsteps and fight the bureaucratic monster.

For example, when I visited the Absorption Ministry offices last week, I overheard a conversation between an official and a newcomer from Russia. It appeared that the Russian had been at the Beerseba absorption centre for some months and having completed his trip, had found a job and a flat in Jerusalem. He wanted to apply for a rent subsidy.

He told me that on a previous visit to the ministry two weeks before, he had been told that in order to receive the subsidy, his file had to be transferred from Beerseba to Jerusalem. It was impossible for the Jerusalem office to phone Beerseba with the request; the new immigrant would have to make the trip south and personally apply for the transfer.

The official unsuccessfully searched for the file and finally asked the immigrant if he had filled out the



New immigrants arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport... tough challenges ahead. (David Rabinger)

correct form in Beerseba. "Form?" the immigrant asked. "Nobody said anything about a form."

The official was not ashamed to tell him that he would have to travel to Beerseba yet again, and that this time he should not forget to fill out the form.

MINISTRY officials have several weapons in their struggle against immigrants, of which forms are only one. Another is language. Many newcomers have a less-than-perfect command of Hebrew, but most officials in the ministry have no command at all of Russian, Spanish or any of the other languages that immigrants speak. Instead, the officials have become used to addressing the immigrants slowly in a condescending tone as if they were speaking to children.

Another weapon in the fight against immigrants is information, which is never volunteered in advance. This point is illustrated by another story I heard from a new immigrant who was careless enough to lose his immigrant card and wanted to apply for a new one.

He was told at the ministry that he would have to swear a statement in court to the effect that he had lost his card. Having sworn the statement, which cost him IL80, he returned to the ministry and was blandly informed by the official that there is a special Absorption Ministry form on which such statements must be written. He would have to swear again, this time using the correct form.

"But why didn't you tell me in advance?" asked the victim. "Why didn't you ask?" was the official's unhelpful reply.

Yet another weapon is time. A common sight in all absorption ministry offices is crowds of people waiting patiently in line outside empty offices, while the officials they are waiting to see wander aimlessly around the building talking to their colleagues. A variation on this theme is the sight of a line of people waiting outside while the official drinks tea and eats sandwiches. Should

Dry Bones



anybody dare to enter the office, he is told in no uncertain terms to join the queue outside.

IMMIGRANT offices work according to a time-scale all their own. The outside world and its petty considerations simply do not exist. For example, the first time I entered the ministry to conduct a simple routine piece of business, I arrived at 12.00 thinking (naively) that I would complete the matter in half an hour before the office closed at 12.30. But it was immediately apparent that the queue outside the office was too long for me to have any chance of seeing the official that day.

The next day, I arrived at 8 a.m., half an hour before the office opened. The clerk arrived at 9 instead of at 8.30 and began accepting customers at 8.30. Like many other immigrants, I was forced to the conclusion that a visit to the ministry involves wasting an entire morning and there is no way round it. How many work hours are lost through this wasteful, needless inefficiency? The ministry is also notorious for the time it takes to perform simple bureaucratic functions. Every immigrant knows that there is at least a three-week gap between the time he hands in all the forms and the

time he receives a cheque for a rent subsidy. Why?

FOR ME, every visit to the dreaded ministry is a profoundly depressing experience. Always the same scenes of innocent people, unused to the ways of the bureaucratic monster, losing their temper and shouting in frustration at the clerks in broken Hebrew. And often, the reply they receive is, "Why don't you learn Hebrew properly before you shout?" Always the scenes of women crying through sheer frustration at the smiling unhelpfulness of the officials.

In some ways, dealing with the Absorption Ministry can be seen as a test of survival. Those who make it through all the tribulations are probably the best fitted to succeed in Israeli society, where most ministries and institutions exhibit the same characteristics. But, this is supposed to be a country of immigration. Once people have actually been attracted here, it seems a waste to try to drive them back again, using the ministry of Absorption as a weapon.

The author, a Post staff member, is a new immigrant from Britain who has survived two years in the country.

Strikes running wild

IT IS DIFFICULT to sort out the rights and wrongs of a dispute so involved as the one which has kept Israel's biggest bank closed for a week now.

Obviously the present insensate rate of price inflation, which erodes purchasing-power, has a lot to do with the intransigent stand taken by the workers — who want their wage demands settled before anything else, regardless of management's desire to negotiate other matters at the same time in a single package-deal.

The cost-of-living allowance offers only partial compensation for lagging salaries. It does not cover all the price increase, nor does it apply to earnings above IL22,000 a month (and a good many bank officials get more than that).

Meanwhile the Israel Discount Bank is offering its personnel a wage rise of 22 per cent. The staff committees have not given their answer so far, and cannot until the showpiece confrontation at Bank Leumi reaches its conclusion. Last time, in 1975, the Discount Bank workers went into the fray on behalf of their colleagues in the banking branch. This time it is Bank Leumi's turn to take the lead.

Given that the Government's declared purpose is to freeze real wages, that is, to prevent any rise — or fall — in the value of the worker's take-home pay, the Discount Bank's proposed 22 per cent increase would appear a reasonable formula on which to base a solution to the deadlock in Bank Leumi as well.

As to Bank Leumi's bid to restore its exclusive authority over appointments, transfers and promotions (which are at present subject to agreement by the workers), it is not very likely to be granted. But the matter of management rights is surely as fit for negotiation at this time as employees' wages.

There are plenty of ways in which this intractable clash of wills can be terminated. It is only a pity that an answer could not have been found without the need to paralyse a huge part of the country's financial business. The use of the strike weapon was originally intended to be a measure of the last resort. Today it has become part of the routine of wage-bargaining.

Other disputes are pending, with the teachers, the postal workers, the dock workers and who knows what other sectors of the public service. Must there be a destructive shutdown each time — before the eventual compromise is reached?

NRP in search of spoils

THE DESIRE of the National Religious Party to have a say in appointments to the Foreign Service — to ensure (they explain) a fair share of the jobs for observant Jews — is a grave breach of the rules of good administration.

It would be another thing if the Foreign Ministry's Appointments Committee had shown bias against candidates on religious grounds. The NRP would then be justified in protesting. Indeed there would be a case for demanding a committee of enquiry to examine what had gone wrong with the selection process.

In fact the record shows that religious belief has not prevented persons of ability from reaching top positions.

They are in these positions not because they do or do not wear a kippa, but because they are in each case the best person for the job. Appointments must be made on merit, there should be no other criterion. The introduction of sectoral interests into the process of nomination or promotion could wreck the public service.

It is not as if the subject was a new one in Israel. The "spoils" system once existed in education, in Government departments, in the employment service. It has been gradually, though not completely eliminated, because it proved to be backward, demoralising and inefficient.

The principle of objective selection is important, given that the first claim to top senior posts should rest with career members of the Foreign Ministry. If an outsider is appointed to an Embassy (and 15 head-of-mission posts are traditionally reserved for outsiders) it must be absolutely clear that he is the better man.

That principle has not always been observed. It should be the job of the NRP and all other parties represented in the Knesset to make sure that it is. There is no other way of avoiding discrimination, not just on the grounds of religion, but also on the grounds of party, community, sex, profession, personal favouritism and other irrelevant considerations.

POSTSCRIPTS

THE NUMBER of doctors in Britain being sued by patients dissatisfied after hair transplant operations is reaching epidemic proportions. England's Medical Defence Union said recently.

The Union, which gives legal advice to doctors and represents them when sued by patients, said that cosmetic plastic surgery including hair transplants, was a "medico-legal minefield."

"The Union has received requests for assistance from a number of members being sued for allegedly negligent hair transplants. If not yet of epidemic proportions, such claims certainly constitute a rash."

Well, not every doctor can cure baldness, but surely any good doctor can treat a rash.

DISAPPEARING INK, long a favourite of magicians, is now being recommended to hospitals for writing on Shabbat.

The Institute for Science and Halacha in Jerusalem, which devotes its time to finding solutions for work that must be performed on the Sabbath, makes this suggestion in its most recent newsletter. Registering blood pressure, temperature, diagnoses and instructions to nurses is not necessarily a life-and-death matter. But it can often be very important for the patient.

According to the Tora, writing that is likely to "last for many days" is considered forbidden on Shabbat. But if it is evanescent, it is forbidden only by the Sages, who worried that one might confuse the disappearing ink with permanent ink.

Since the patient's health is involved, most rabbinical opinions allow the use of disappearing ink anyway. After Shabbat, and before the ink disappears, a photocopy of the records can be made. J.S.

A NEW IMMIGRANT we know was puzzled the other day when the clerk at the office of his absorption centre informed him, in broken English: "Sir, I must tell you that at 1:30 you are gardener."

Our immigrant friend had visions of being issued a rake and hoe and being impressed into some sort of forced pioneering brigade.

But he was issued a carbine instead. For Civil Gardener duty, of course. D.D.

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READERS' LETTERS

DEMOGRAPHIC PROSPECTS IN ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Paul Eidelberg (September 27) has chosen to attack the proposed amendment to the abortion law primarily on the grounds of the demographic peril which the Jewish State faces from the high birth-rate of its Arab citizens. There are three separate aspects to the problem he raises:

1. Why is the Arab growth-rate higher than the Jewish?
2. Why does Israel have so high an abortion rate?
3. What are wise and appropriate demographic objectives for Israel?

The answers to the first two of these are easy, but lend little encouragement to Prof. Eidelberg's point of view.

1. The Arabs of Israel live for the most part in communities organized on the lines of post-medieval agricultural societies and have the high birth-rates appropriate to such societies. As they enjoy the advantages of modern health services, their death-rates are those of a modern industrial society. The incongruity between them leads to rapid population growth. The Jews of Israel live for the most part in a modern industrial society and have the vital rates appropriate to this.

The only way to remove entirely the demographic contrast between these two groups is to equalize their socio-economic conditions — a mammoth task which will take generations. The difference can be diminished and controlled, and the process of elevation of the economic conditions of the Arabs assisted, by the provision of proper birth-control services and education to Arab communities. Successive Israeli governments have lacked the courage to do this, fearing accusations of "genocide," but surely the hard lesson has been learnt by now that Israel is attacked whatever it does. We are more vulnerable to judicious criticism for failing to provide such contraceptive services as the governments of Egypt and Tunisia not merely offer, but thrust upon their populations, than we would be if we provided them.

2. A high rate of abortion is characteristic of advanced countries with inadequate birth-control facilities — mainly Catholic and Communist countries of Europe and Latin America. In Israel, the inadequacy is again a reflection of government inactivity. This is fed partly by the harsh and controversial interpretation of relevant Halacha by our religious leaders, and partly by

muddle-headedness on the part of politicians as to the effect of birth-control programmes on communities which already control their birth-rates as do the Israeli Jews. The Jewish birth-rate will not be materially affected by the provision or denial of facilities for contraception or abortion, any more than will the extent of pre-marital, extra-marital, or "illicit" sex. But the combination of efficient services for both contraception and abortion will result in a great reduction in abortion. Abortion is functionally merely an inefficient and aesthetically (and to many morally) offensive form of birth-control. But for many Israelis, it is the only method to which they have unhindered access.

3. Most Israelis automatically assume that the demographic objective appropriate to the country is rapid and for the time being unlimited growth of the Jewish population. Fortunately their reproductive behaviour belies their convictions. A country doomed to continue to live at subsistence level can afford to preclude indifference to the economic and social effects of population growth. One which aspires to a high and growing living standard, as Israel does, must be more discriminating. To look at it only from the point of view of defence needs, or the replacement of a lost generation, is like trying to programme a flight to the moon with an abacus. In an age of soaring fuel and raw material costs, increasing competition for contracting markets for manufactured goods, and a general retreat from the philosophy of perpetual growth, a country of 10,000 sq. miles of virtually resourceless territory must plan with precision and care. Were it not that they cannot be effective against the superior instincts of the people, primitive attitudes like Prof. Eidelberg's could plunge the country into irrecoverable poverty. As it is, *yerida* will continue to siphon off the growth of Israel's population whenever it tends to outstrip economic reality.

Eidelberg seems to believe we should confront our problems with a wave of unwanted babies forced on unhappy parents and perpetuate unemployment and homosexuality, but I would suggest we leave experiments in regression to the Dark Ages to Iran.

DR. DAVID WOLFERS, formerly Director, Population Bureau, Foreign Office, London Jerusalem.

SABBATH PEACE AND QUIET

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — In the general furor over the proposed stadium at Shuafat, a convenient myth has developed that the non-observant do not care how much noise and traffic occur in their vicinity. Therefore, according to this logic, it is only necessary to find a site with sufficient seating and parking space and approach roads for a satisfactory substitute. Hence the apparently growing support for the University stadium.

This would in all likelihood be an ecological disaster. It may come as a surprise to the Orthodox that there are thousands of Jerusalemites, not formally observant, who value their peace and quiet, particularly on the Sabbath, just as much as the observant. The use of the University stadium will undoubtedly cause traffic congestion and tremendous noise just on the day when one hopes for a respite from these miseries. All neighbourhoods near the stadium, and some of them are much nearer to the University than is Sandbedria Murhevet to Shuafat, will be affected by the traffic streaming towards the University. It will be a further step downwards in the quality of inner city life.

Common sense and concern for the quality of city life dictate that the stadium be placed where it can be approached by ring roads such as one finds in well-planned modern cities, and not within the already built-up inner city which has enough problems already.

AVIVA EVEN-PAZ Jerusalem.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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The closing date for the draw is Monday, October 15, 1979 (date of postmark). Only entries submitted on the coupon below and accompanied by a cheque will be accepted. The winners will be selected at random by computer in the presence of Mr. Uzi Warner, General Manager of I.R.H. Israel Resort Hotels, Mr. Ari Rath, Editor and Managing Director of the Jerusalem Post, and a representative of the paper's accountants. No staff members of The Jerusalem Post or their immediate family may participate.

The full names and address of the six winners will be published in The Jerusalem Post on Friday, November 2. The winners can arrange their stay direct with the hotel, vacancies permitting.

Please complete the form below and send it to us with your cheque. Only entries on this form will be accepted.

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